



Sheila Dixon

*Mayor,
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Mayor Sheila Dixon Appoints Goldstein to Lead Criminal Justice

Mayor picks Goldstein to head re-established Mayor's Office on Criminal Justice

Baltimore, MD (February 7, 2007) – Recognizing unemployment, drug addiction and lack of education as major contributors to the ongoing culture of violent crime in certain neighborhoods, Mayor Sheila Dixon announced, in her first State of the City address, that Sheryl Goldstein will head up the re-established Mayor's Office on Criminal Justice.

Sheryl comes to Baltimore with an impressive background, accurately reflecting her commitment to improving criminal justice systems. She was a trial lawyer for six years, focusing her practice on criminal litigation in both state and federal courts while employed by the law firms of Zuckerman Spaeder and Schulman, Treem, Kaminkow, Gilden & Ravenell. In 1998, Sheryl began to pursue a career in public service. She worked for the Center for Court Innovation, a public-private partnership with the New York State Unified Court System that is dedicated to enhancing the performance of courts and promoting public trust in the justice system. While there, she was responsible for creating and operating a community based mediation center in Crown Heights, Brooklyn. She then assisted in the planning, development and implementation of a number of problem-solving initiatives including Community Justice Centers in Red Hook and Harlem. Most recently, she was responsible for providing assistance and training to support criminal justice agencies, governments, NGOs and community groups around the world that are working to reform their local justice systems.

“The efforts of law enforcement to reduce crime, stop gang activity and eliminate the drug trade will not work unless they are coordinated throughout city government and in partnership with state and federal levels to address the roots of crime and not just the acts of crime,” stated Mayor Dixon. “Sheryl's local, national and international work in mediation, court innovation and other criminal justice issues has prepared her well for the important work ahead of us.”

In 2000, she took a one-year leave of absence to perform legal reform work in Kosovo. While in Kosovo, her primary responsibility was to create a Criminal Defense Resource Center, an independent NGO support center for local defense attorneys. In addition, she assisted local lawyers preparing and trying cases involving serious crimes and provided legal training to local judges, prosecutors and defense attorneys. She also participated in a working group drafting new criminal codes.

"I'm honored that Mayor Dixon has selected me to help bring people together around the issue of criminal justice," commented Goldstein. "Working together we will bring about real change and improvement in our criminal justice system that will have a positive impact on the citizens of Baltimore."

In 2001, Sheryl returned to Baltimore and served as Criminal Justice Coordinator to Baltimore County Executive Jim Smith. Sheryl earned her BA from University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and received her Juris Doctorate from Georgetown University Law Center.

One of the Ms. Goldstein's primary tasks will be to take the 26 recommendations of The Baltimore Citywide Ex-offenders Task Force and work with the City Council to move forward with funding and implementing the recommendations. The Office of Criminal Justice will also have the important task of coordinating other executive agencies working to eliminate criminal activity.

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